Visible planets

**Mercury** starts this two-month period in a close conjunction with Saturn in the morning skies before the Sun rises. This innermost planet will move to the opposite side of the Sun and superior conjunction, before reappearing as an evening planet toward the middle of April.

**Venus** will be an interesting planet to observe in the morning presunrise hours over the next two months as it moves eastward passing Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter, in that order. Watch for a very close conjunction with Jupiter on April 30.

**Mars** will be visible over the eastern horizon before sunrise during the next two months. It will be in a unique conjunction with Venus, Saturn, and the waxing crescent Moon on March 28.

**Dwarf planet Ceres** will be traversing nearly the entire length of Taurus the Bull. While not visible to the unaided eye, it could still be followed with optical assistance or astrophotography.

**Jupiter** will be visible above the eastern horizon as it rises about 1–2 hours before the Sun during this two-month period.

**Saturn** rises about 2–3 hours before the Sun rises and, like Jupiter, will be visible over the eastern horizon at sunrise.

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### March

02 Mercury–Saturn conjunction  
New Moon  
05 Jupiter in conjunction with Sun  
08 Moon at ascending node  
Waxing crescent Moon near the Pleiades  
10 First quarter Moon  
Moon at apogee: 251,200 miles (404,288 km)  
12 International Day of Planetariums  
13 Daylight Saving Time starts  
Waxing gibbous Moon near Pollux  
Neptune in conjunction with Sun  
14 Waxing gibbous Moon near Beehive Open Star Cluster  
Pi Day  
15 Waxing gibbous Moon near Regulus  
18 Full Moon  
19 Waning gibbous Moon near Spica  
20 Venus at greatest elongation: 46.5°W  
March Equinox 15:33 UT (11:33 EDT)  
21 Mercury 1.2° of Jupiter  
22 Moon at descending node  
23 Waning gibbous Moon near Antares  
Moon at perigee: 229,761 miles (369,764 km)  
24 Last quarter Moon  
26 Earth Hour  
27 Waning crescent Moon near Mars  
European summer time  
28 Waning crescent Moon near Saturn  
29 Venus–Saturn conjunction  

### April

01 New Moon  
02 Mercury at superior conjunction  
04 Moon at ascending node  
Waxing crescent Moon near the Pleiades  
07 Moon at apogee: 251,306 miles (404,438 km)  
09 First quarter Moon  
Waxing gibbous Moon near Pollux  
10 Waxing gibbous Moon near Beehive Open Star Cluster  
12 Waxing gibbous Moon near Regulus  
13 Mercury at perihelion  
16 Waxing gibbous Moon near Spica  
Full Moon  
18 Moon at descending node  
19 Moon at perigee: 226,889 miles (365,143 km)  
Waning gibbous Moon near Antares  
22 Lyrid meteor shower  
Earth Day  
23 Last quarter Moon  
24 Waning crescent Moon near Saturn  
25 Waning crescent Moon near Mars  
26 Waning crescent Moon near Venus  
27 Waning crescent Moon near Jupiter  
29 Mercury at greatest elongation: 206°E  
Mercury near the Pleiades Open Star Cluster  
30 New Moon  
Partial solar eclipse  
First picture of Earth from lunar surface